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SC
THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

FEBRUARY

1988

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

SHARPEN YOUR PENCILS! "LETTER LOBBYISTS" NEEDED ON PRICE-ANDERSON ACT RENEWAL!
Vera Stuchinski

Because of the huge controversy surrounding the renewal of the Price-Anderson Act (liability insurance for the nuclear industry), the inadequate legislation proposed in the U.S. Senate last year never made it to the Senate floor for a vote in the last legislative session. Letters need to be kept flowing to Senators Heinz and Specter urging that legislation be adopted that:

- o holds Department of Energy contractors (weapons and research) responsible for accidents;
- o provides full victim compensation; and,
- o extends Price-Anderson for no more than ten years.

If you feel constrained from participating in issues you care about because of personal responsibilities, you can still affect change by lobbying elected officials by letter writing. Remember, the nuclear industry supports a small army of well-paid influence peddlers and a simple handwritten letter or post-card will allow your voice to be heard.

Recently the Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of radiation victims downwind from the Nevada test site who have been denied the right to sue the federal government. The Court's decision means the only recourse for radiation victims is through legislative change.

The Atomic Veterans and their families are fighting for the right to compensation for illnesses and deaths resulting from cancers caused by radiation exposure during nuclear weapons testing. The National Committee for Radiation Victims is lobbying hard on their behalf. You can write to:

- o The Chairman, Senate Veteran Affairs Committee, 414 Russell Bldg, Wash. D.C. 20510. Urge support of Senate Bill 9 which would compensate atomic veterans suffering from cancers, who were exposed to at least one rem of radiation.

- o The Chairman, House Veteran Affairs Committee, 335 Cannon Office Bldg, Wash. D.C. 20515. Urge support of House Bill 1811, which would compensate veterans whose cancer appears within 30 years of exposure.

- o Senators Heinz (227 Russell Senate Office Bldg.) and Specter (331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.) (both Wash., D.C. 20510) urging them to support Senate Bill 612, which would give veterans and civilians the right to sue defense contractors involved in nuclear weapons testing (they currently enjoy immunity from medical costs and damages thanks to legislation endorsed by the Reagan administration in 1984).

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Planning Council Meets
February 1, 1988



MARY OSBORN MEETS CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN IN GERMANY

Editor's Note: Mary Osborn recently spent two weeks in Germany talking about the health effects of the TMI accident to people who are feeling the impact of Chernobyl. Her account seems all the more ominous when read alongside the Associated Press dispatch from the 1/21/88 **Patriot** which follows the article.

The Chernobyl accident in April, 1986, spread radioactive fallout over much of the northern hemisphere with high levels recorded in Europe. Some of the northern part of West Germany was spared, but an area near the city of Lubeck got heavy fallout in the rain. The southern part of the country was heavily contaminated, with Bavaria receiving the highest doses. Nuts, particularly hazelnuts, and mushrooms are quite high in contamination as they concentrate radio-nuclides.

Frightened parents in West Germany feared for their children's health and the food supplies. They were also concerned about contamination of the air, rain, soil and sand boxes. Rain brought puddles of water so radioactive that if it had been a spill in a laboratory the room would have to be evacuated!

Concern and caring brought people together. Citizen groups were formed in Hamburg, Berlin, and many other cities and towns. Equipment was purchased with membership dues and donations to monitor radiation levels in food, both domestic and imported. (I saw a package of California almonds checked with a 3 becquerels per kilogram cesium 134/137.) A weekly magazine with a circulation of 7,000 publishes the radiation content of food items. Some businesses voluntarily donate their products for testing.

Germany still exports "bad food." Some countries only do spot checks of imports, but the bulk of contaminated food goes to third world countries. (In the United States it seem to be "buyer beware.")

I was invited to Germany to speak about my experiences during the Three Mile Island accident and its aftermath. In 14 days I spoke in 13 different towns. Translators and I spent three hours speaking and answering questions in churches, a sports club, a university lecture hall, and the most luxurious synogogue-social hall.

The health effects suffered by TMI area residents and the thousands of law-suits with the millions of dollars already paid brought the most questions, while the Rickover cover-up brought many. Some were shocked that our government covered-up the health damages and that I blamed the government for the accident more than I blamed the utility.

I also presented a 20-minute slide show of plant growth abnormalities and mutations found near Three Mile Island. Most of the effects I've found were within 25 miles of TMI, while Germany is about a thousand miles from Chernobyl and suffering this kind of radioactive contamination. I was not surprised to learn from people in the audience that similar effects of flora damage were now appearing in their own yards and gardens. People brought specimens for me to see and I was given a few slides to take home.

I taught the German people some things, but I learned very much from them. One young man found the blue lily in his garden grew white and his dahlia had a fused double bloom. Another man found and photographed a thick stemmed, multiple headed dandelion similar to the photo in the May 13, 1986 **Village Voice**. He also found a clump of dandelion leaves over 30" long which he mailed to authorities, but never received a reply.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THEN GIVE MORE TO SUPPORT TMIA ACTIVITIES

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: \$15 Regular Membership \$50 Sustaining Member
 \$25 Non-Profit Organization \$100 Patron
 \$5 Low income, Student \$200 Club Member
 \$5 Non-member, newsletter subscription

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I met people who complained of skin rashes, breathing difficulties and other effects of Chernobyl rains. One mother told me about her children getting red spots under their skin after the rains came. (I only spoke of skin rashes and reddening, not of petechiae, the red spots.)

All of this is tragic. Members of food monitoring groups are careful to purchase safe foods for their families. This meant giving up completely some of their favorite foods, beverages and chocolates. To give you an idea of the situation, the reality people must encounter, one mother told me she took her daughter to a birthday party. She inquired about the ingredients in the birthday cake. "Oh, it's delicious, with nuts and chocolate," replied the hostess. Well, the mother thanked her and said her child was not permitted to eat the cake. A heated discussion followed with some hostility and guilt. This happens often, especially at school and church events. And, while you may think this frivolous, some foods are really quite contaminated.

These concerned mothers and others from Germany chose to take it upon themselves to learn and to do. It is your responsibility to learn and up to you to decide what is acceptable to you.

As we approach the ninth anniversary of the TMI accident, why don't you write your Congressman and both Senators asking them each to explain why there has NEVER been an investigation of the symptoms and health effects caused by the accident. I'm not talking about cancers and the Columbia Cancer Study! I'm talking about the full range of effects suffered by some local residents during the early days of the accident and of the 40 rads per hour and 10 rads per hour over Goldsboro and the Gamble Testimony. Too much is still covered up.

Mary Osborn

Effects of Chernobyl may linger in Britain

Associated Press

LONDON — Agricultural restrictions in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union may have to remain in force for the next 30 years in parts of Britain, a report said today.

The report, by the Country Landowners' Association, which represents large landowners in Britain, criticized the government for underestimating the effects of

the April 1986 nuclear accident.

The explosion and fire at the Soviet nuclear reactor killed 31 Soviets and sent radioactive rain clouds sweeping across Europe.

Many upland areas in Britain are still affected by the radioactive fallout and the movement and slaughter of hundreds of thousands of sheep are still restricted as a result.

More than 600 farms in Britain are affected by restrictions

because radioactivity in their areas exceeds government safety levels.

John Wynne, spokesman for the landowners' body, said two areas of north Wales "may be the last citadels of Chernobyl fallout, with local sheep still giving radiation readings over 1,000 becquerels in 30 years' time."

A becquerel is a unit for measuring radiation contamination.

PUBLIC HEARINGS PLANNED ON TMI WATER EVAPORATION

Leslie R. Klein of the Lancaster **Intelligencer Journal** succinctly summarized the contentions (arguments) raised by TMIA and the Susquehanna Valley Alliance which the Atomic Safety & Licensing Board agreed to hear during hearings on the proposed evaporation of 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water stored on the island. The contentions the ASLB will hear include:

- o GPU Nuclear and the NRC have not shown that evaporation meets standards requiring that the release of radioactivity be "as low as reasonably achievable." Other disposal methods would not release all the radioactivity into the environment.

- o GPU Nuclear and the NRC have not analyzed the risks and benefits of storing the water on the island.

- o The company and agency inadequately considered two disposal methods -- evaporation with no release of radiation to the environment and storing the water in tanks in the containment building on site.

- o The plan does not show whether the benefit of evaporation would exceed the cost, which includes the impact of adding radiation to the food chain, water and air. The cost of trucking the residue left after evaporation to a disposal site has not been evaluated sufficiently.

- o The evaporator might not filter all radioactive elements.

- o Monitoring and some other safety systems have not been proven adequate.

- o A fluctuation in the amount of water being evaporated could jeopardize public safety.

- o The effects of tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, and other radioactive elements have been underestimated or ignored.

- o The impact of chemicals, such as boron and sodium, added to the water has not been determined.

Frances Skolnick of Lancaster will represent TMIA and SVA during the hearings. She needs help with "discovery," the next phase of the proceeding, and would appreciate hearing from anyone willing to provide assistance. Call Frances directly at (717)872-0803.

Readers are also urged to submit statements about their position on the proposed evaporation in writing to the three judge panel. Write to:

Administrative Judges Wolfe, Bright & Paris
Atomic Safety & Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

TMIA PROTESTS PROPOSED NRC STAFF CHANGES AT TMI

Today, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has seven nuclear engineers and health physicists at TMI Unit 2. "Beginning February 1, 1988," according to an NRC news release, "NRC onsite staffing at TMI-2 will be reduced to two engineers." TMIA, in a letter to the Commission, cites the proposal as "an inappropriate and misguided move."

TMIA Chairperson Vera Stuchinski and Spokesperson Eric Epstein, in a joint letter on behalf of TMIA, call attention to GPU's poor management record, to the recent shutdown of the GPU nuclear plant at Oyster Creek, New Jersey (where operators destroyed data), and to the plant's unique problems.

Reducing staff levels prior to completion of core removal (which has been extended into late 1988), they write, "is sure to inspire a loss of public confidence in the NRC's commitment to safety."

NEWS NOTES - NEWS NOTES - NEWS NOTES - NEWS NOTES - NEWS NOTES

On or about February 1, 1988, the Environmental Protection Agency will transfer the radiation monitoring program at TMI to the Hershey Medical Center on a grant jointly funded by the EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Bernd Franke of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research will release their radiation monitoring report January 29, 1988. A summary of the report can be obtained by contacting the TMIA office. The TMI Health Fund has released a separate report on radiation monitoring which can be obtained by contacting the Fund directly: 1622 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. You can reach them by telephone at (215)898-4828.

Betsy and John Robinson are the proud parents of Kristine, born Wednesday, January 20. She weighed 7 lb. 14 oz. at birth and joins brother Stephen who is 1 1/2 years old. Betsy is Treasurer of TMIA.

Ninth Anniversary observance plans are now in the making--yes, it'll soon be nine years since the TMI accident. Call Kay at the TMIA office (233-7897) if you have ideas or would like to serve on the committee. Everyone pencil in now, Sunday night, March 27th!

WANTED! Hosts for house meetings. We supply the speakers and invitations. You supply the house and we will even help with the invitation list. This is an enjoyable way to hear the latest information on the water evaporation issue and raise some money for the upcoming hearings. Phone Kay at the office (233-7897) or Debbie Baker (566-7466).

CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR

Monday, February 1 - TMIA Planning Council Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets, Harrisburg.

Saturday, February 13 - Heartbreaker's Ball - "For anyone who has ever felt the pain of love" - 8 p.m. at the Civic Club Ballroom, Front & North Streets, \$7.00 per person, Music by Dewey & The Decibels, call Gene at 234-0800 for info.

Monday, February 22 - Deadline for discovery in TMI Water Evaporation Hearing.

Sunday, March 27 - TMIA Ninth Anniversary Commemorative Activities

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

MAY
1988

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TMIA SEEKS AID IN GATHERING EVIDENCE

TMIA and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) are working to enlist the help of elected officials to force the NRC to comply with the law and their own safety regulations.

TMIA and UCS have petitioned Governor Casey, Representatives Gekas, and Senators Heinz and Specter to force the NRC to provide public documents detailing the investigation of GPU's failure to install necessary safety equipment at TMI Unit 1.

In 1984, the NRC (at UCS's urging) conducted an audit of several reports approving GPU's installation of additional emergency systems. In each case, the NRC found that the required changes to be inadequate. GPU claimed, with the NRC staff's support, that all requirements had been met. It became apparent that both the staff and GPU had lied to the NRC.

At UCS's insistence, the NRC conducted an investigation of the material, false statements made by their staff, and the utility. UCS requested copies of the investigation, but received no reply. Finally in October of 1987, UCS filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the documents with the NRC. Although required to respond to such a request within 10 days, the Commission refused to cooperate.

--Vera Stuchinski

SVA/TMIA EFFORTS SECURE DATA

Frances Skolnick, intervenor for the Susquehanna Valley Alliance and TMIA, successfully petitioned the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) to obtain data regarding the technical specifications of the evaporator GPU plans to use should they receive approval to evaporate 2.3 million gallons of accident-generated, radioactive water. Additionally, the ASLB reprimanded GPU for failing to respond to earlier orders:

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Planning Council Meets
Monday, May 9



The Licensee has wasted our time in seeking to elude the obvious thrust and sense of our Order of April 1, the Memorandum and order of January 5, and the Order of January 28, 1988. The design of the evaporator is an issue in this case and, accordingly, the "design" specifications as initially completed by its fabricator (and even if subsequently amended) must be made available by the License in a timely manner for the Joint Intervenor's inspection and copying.

Despite the fact that the hearings are not due to proceed until the fall, GPU has hired a vendor at a cost of \$800,000 to "...design, fabricate, install, and test..." an evaporator. In the event GPU fails to obtain permission to evaporate, they have agreed to sell the vendor the evaporator at half price.

It's not too late to submit your personal statement on the proposed evaporation or request time to present your views in person by writing to the NRC three-judge panel. Write to:

Administrative Judges Wolfe, Bright & Paris
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

--Eric Epstein

GPU HOLDS SHAREHOLDERS MEETING ON MAY 2 IN READING

GPU Chairman William G. Kuhns reported at this year's shareholders meeting the the company's earnings increased 24 percent, dividends were doubled to 30 cents a share (the payout ratio is 30 percent compared to industry average of 50 to 70 percent), and return on equity was 14 percent, which was above the industry average. Kuhns also noted the GPU stock had rebounded and increased from its 1980 low of 3 3/8 to 32 1/2 per share, yet GPU's bond rating has failed to establish or maintain an "A" rating.

Kuhns told the audience that by 1997 co-generation would produce 28 percent of GPU's electricity, coinciding with GPU's efforts to control expenditures, constrain capital expansion and establish improved bond ratings.

TMIA asked Kuhns when and how much it would cost to decommission and decontaminate Unit 2. Kuhns said no economic schedules were devised, however he implied GPU's assets could be more profitably employed elsewhere. He expected decommissioning and decontamination to occur somewhere between 2010 and 2020.

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GPU Nuclear President Phil Clark noted that during the next phase of cleanup, Post Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS), there was, "no way radioactivity can communicate with the environment." In PDMS Unit 2 would be mothballed, in essence becoming an unsecure high- and low-level waste site well into the twenty-first century.

--Eric Epstein

NRC APPROVES DELAY OF TMI CLEANUP

In a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement issued in April, the NRC staff endorsed GPU's Post Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS) plan for TMI Unit 2. The plan would allow Unit 2 to be mothballed for "...a storage period of an unspecified length of time," after which the "...licensee plans to resume the cleanup process." The staff noted that, "The licensee has proposed placing the TMI-2 facility into monitored storage because of the benefits of occupational dose savings resulting from radioactive decay during the storage period as well as anticipated advances in decontamination technology."

This position is inconsistent with the NRC's general cleanup policy. The staff maintains that the storage of radioactive water at TMI-2 is an impediment to an expedited cleanup, and the water will not decay sufficiently to merit a delay (TMIA argued that the water should be monitored on site until a safe method of disposal is formulated). On the other hand, GPU and the NRC are content to allow TMI to serve as a high- and low-level waste site for an indefinite period of time. Not only is TMI not suited to be a waste site, but the radioactive materials are dispersed in an unstable state throughout the plant and not contained by barrels.

The disposal of the water and the completion of the cleanup cannot be separated since water is the essential medium in the resolution of both issues. In fact, GPU proposes dumping radioactive water accumulated during PDMS directly into the Susquehanna River.

What can you do? First, to obtain a copy of the PEIS, contact: Dr. Michael Masnik at the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. NRC, Washington, D.D. 20555. His phone number is 301-492-1373. Public comment is encouraged before the final supplement is completed. Second, contact Thomas Smithgall, 717-291-1041, to reserve time on the agenda of the next Advisory Panel meeting. The meeting is scheduled for May 26, 1988, 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2nd and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg.

--Eric Epstein

UN PEACE WALK PLANNED

Disarmament, anti-intervention and justice movement activists have come together in a unified call for public action in June when the United Nations convenes its third Special Session on Disarmament. A Walk for World Peace in Support of the UN Special Session is planned.

For Sunday, May 15, a pot-luck meal is planned at Unitarian Church with Buddhist walkers at 6 p.m. On Monday, May 16, they will visit TMI and return to the church for lunch. At 1 p.m. they will begin walking to the Harrisburg City Government Center with local citizens. They will meet with Mayor Reed at 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 11 -- National Protest Action vans have been reserved and will leave designated locations at 6 a.m. for New York City and plan to return to Harrisburg by 11 p.m. Round trip fare is \$25. Interested people should phone 652-0755 and ask for Milton Lowental.

Agenda: Gather at UN and begin march at 11:30 a.m. March to Central Park. Rally of cultural presentations and speeches begins at 2 p.m.

TMIA NEWS NOTES TMIA NEWS NOTES TMIA NEWS NOTES

Volunteers Deb Davenport and Dan Welliver have been reading the printouts of the 15 GPU radiation monitoring stations on a weekly basis. The printouts are housed at the Dauphin County Emergency Management office in the basement of the Courthouse Annex. **Additional volunteers are needed!** Please call Deb at 763-9552 or Dan at the TMIA office 233-7897.

WANTED -- Hosts for house meetings. We supply the speakers and invitations. You supply the house and we will even help with the invitation list. This is an enjoyable way to hear the latest information on the water evaporation issue and raise some money for the upcoming hearings. Phone Kay at the office (233-7897) or Debbie Baker (566-7466).

The TMI Advisory Panel will meet Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Town, 2nd and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg. Come, present your views on the evaporator and GPU's Post Defueling Monitored Storage Plan for TMI Unit 2.

Radon info packets available. The March 26 Radiation Forum was a success. For those who were unable to attend, we are willing to distribute the Radon information packet supplied by EPA and DER. Call the office (233-7897) and order your packet.

CALENDAR---CALENDAR---CALENDAR

Monday, May 9 -- TMIA Planning Council Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, 6th and Herr Streets.

Sunday, May 15 and Monday, May 16 -- Walk for World Peace activities in Harrisburg.

Thursday, May 26 -- TMI Advisory Panel. 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2nd and Chestnut Streets.

Saturday, June 11 -- Walk for World Peace. March and rally, New York City.

Saturday, June 18 -- TMIA Summer Solstice Picnic. 2 p.m. at the Perry County residence of Eric Epstein.

You Are Invited to the Third Annual Summer Solstice Benefit

- Date:** TMIA will host a bluegrass-folk music happening on **Saturday, June 18**
- Time:** **The picnic will begin at 1:00** and last 'till dark. Music, beginning at 2:00 p.m., will feature Jay Smar, Chris Magoc and Friends and Trick Bag.
- Place:** At Eric Epstein's land in Perry County.
- Directions:** Take U.S. 322 West, crossing the Clarks Ferry Bridge, to U.S. 11/15 North (Selinsgrove). In Liverpool (about 12 miles north of the 322/11&15 intersection) turn through the parking lot of Lowe's Restaurant. Turn right, go 5 feet and turn left. Sign will read: Centerville 3 Newport 11. Go 9/10 of a mile. Turn left. Second lane on the left. If you are lost, call Eric's at 444-2173. There is no rain date. If the weather looks bad, call 444-2173.
- Tickets:** \$10 each are available from TMIA and include vegetarian food, chicken, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages. Please contact TMIA in advance if you'll be bringing a covered dish or dessert. Call or write TMIA for tickets: 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Phone 233-7897.
- Sponsored by:** Three Mile Island Alert (717) 233-7897.



Pay at the door or make you reservation today.

TEAR OFF AND MAIL TO: TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Harrisburg, PA 17102

TEAR OFF

Third Annual Summer Solstice Benefit - Saturday, June 18, 1988

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for _____ reservations (\$10.00 per person includes food, drink and music)

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

JULY
1988

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NRC Seeks Means to License Seabrook by Vera L. Stuchinski

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is still trying to figure out how to license the Seabrook nuclear power plant. Operation of the New Hampshire plant is stalled because state and local officials refused to submit emergency evacuation plans on the basis that safe evacuation is not possible.

The NRC is now attempting to blackmail elected officials into providing emergency plans for Seabrook, by changing the rules for all nuclear power plants. Basically, the NRC would change emergency plan requirements for all plants involved only in fuel loading and low-power operation. The reasons? The NRC says the risk to the public at low-power operation is much lower and there would be more time to notify government officials of an accident.

Here's the scenario: The NRC will present government officials in the Seabrook area with a *fait accompli*. After loosening licensing requirements and issuing a license for low-power operation, the NRC believes local officials will feel compelled to develop an emergency plan. With a plan in place, the NRC will then allow full-power operation at Seabrook.

NRC "Reform" Bill in Senate by Vera L. Stuchinski

The U.S. Senate may soon vote on a bill (S.2443) to abolish the five NRC Commissioners and replace them with a single administrator, appointed by the President, and a three-member Nuclear Safety Board which would investigate accidents and other problems at nuclear power plants. Because of the following provisions, the bill has drawn fire from safe-energy advocates:

- The bill allows the single administrator to appoint two of the three Safety Board members, which would undermine the independence of the Board.
- There are no provisions to ensure that the single administrator cannot control funding or influence employees of the board.
- The Safety Board is empowered to investigate only "significant safety events" (abnormal occurrences), which limits them from investigating any events they consider important.
- This legislation would allow the administrator to stop inquiries by the Office of Investigations without a formal finding.

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• Also, under current law, meetings between the Commissioners are open to the public. With a single administrator (and his/her deputy), there would probably be little public access.

If you feel strongly about such changes, please contact Senators Heinz and Specter, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, and make your views known. For more information about S.2443, contact the Nuclear Information Resource Service, 1424 16th St. NW, Suit 601, Washington, DC 20036.

Court Throws Out TMIA Suit Against the NRC

by Eric Epstein

On May 6, 1988 a lawsuit filed by TMIA, Public Citizen and several other safe-energy groups was dismissed on procedural grounds. The suit, filed on November 19, 1987, alleged that the NRC failed to enact binding regulations governing the training of workers at nuclear generating stations. More specifically, the complaint argued that the NRC was in violation of section 306 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 which mandated that the NRC "promulgate regulations...for the training and qualifications of civilian nuclear power...operating personnel." Instead of complying with this directive, the NRC endorsed the nuclear industry's training accreditation program. Unfortunately, the court accepted the NRC's argument that the case was untimely, because 180 days had passed since the effective date of the NRC's action. The substantive issues of this case were never dealt with, thus TMIA and other groups intend to reopen the issue at a later date.

TMIA Opposes GPU's Plan to Mothball Unit 2

by Eric Epstein

In official comments sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, TMIA has registered its opposition to GPU's planned Post-Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS) for Unit 2.

The GPU proposal would put the clean-up of Unit 2 "on-hold" for at least 20 years, turning the island into an unstable radioactive waste site. The PDMS plan would leave some parts of the reactor highly radioactive, while most of the plant would be contaminated with lower levels of radioactivity. (If TMI is mothballed it will remain radioactive for several hundred years). Since the radioactive materials are unevenly dispersed and not housed in containers, Unit 2 would become an unstable radioactive waste site.

Calling for an immediate clean-up, TMIA argued that GPU has the resources at hand to complete the cleanup in three to four years at a projected cost of \$170 to \$240 million. If GPU delays the cleanup for an indefinite period of time, a whole new work force will have to be assembled and trained, and a much more expensive funding package will have to be put together.

Not surprisingly, the NRC has endorsed GPU's plan in an Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) issued in April. Unfortunately, several familiar and disturbing themes surfaced in this document. To begin with, the NRC relied heavily on data supplied by GPU. For instance, the NRC staff assumed GPU's projections about radiation locations and radiation levels were accurate. In addition, the NRC presumed that GPU will have the economic resources (approximately \$200 to \$320 million in 1988 dollars) to finish the cleanup.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THEN GIVE MORE TO SUPPORT TMIA ACTIVITIES

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

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TMIA argues that GPU has an experienced work force and the means, both economical and technological, in place today to continue the cleanup without delay. Moreover, while the NRC staff did not have a clear preference in resolving this issue, but stated that the "TMI-2 site should not be allowed to become a waste disposal site." The public needs to let the NRC know that we have a preference: clean the plant up now! Plan to attend the next TMI Advisory Panel meeting on Thursday, July 14, 7:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Town.

NRC Drops Proposal in Victory for Safe Energy Advocates

The NRC has withdrawn its proposed rule to redefine some high level nuclear waste as low level waste. Everything that is currently considered high level waste, such as irradiated fuel will remain so. Unfortunately, efforts by safe energy advocates to have some low level waste reclassified as high level also failed.

Mt. Ashmore: Harrisburg's Great Wonder

by Brian Hunt

Have you ever driven by the Harrisburg Municipal Incinerator on South Cameron Street with its huge black mountain of ash and wondered—"What's in that pile?" Every lab analysis of "Mt. Ashmore" (as state Department of Environmental Resources (DER) employees have named it) agrees: that pile is made up of hazardous wastes containing dangerous amounts of toxic metals like lead, cadmium, and arsenic. Although there is no doubt that Mt. Ashmore exceeds federal toxicity standards, the city of Harrisburg has been allowed to let that pile of hazardous wastes grow far above the permitted height of eight feet until it has reached 70 feet high and 80 feet across. Mt. Ashmore also contains a much more dangerous hazard, Dioxin, the chemical that made the government buy-out the community of Times Beach, Missouri.

The ash is the residue from Harrisburg's garbage incinerator. Much of the toxic metals are trapped by the pollution control devices at the base of that tall, belching smoke-stack. Some samples of this flyash prove that it is 13 times more toxic than EPA's standard for hazardous wastes. Still, the greatest portion of the toxics are not captured in the old, poorly maintained pollution control devices. They go right up the stack and into the air of Steelton and South Harrisburg. Currently, the Harrisburg plant has six outstanding violations for visible emissions from the stack. Just last May, DER tested the stack emissions and discovered the plant was emitting seven times more particulates than allowed by law. In 17 years of operation, stack emissions have been tested only four times and only once was the facility in compliance with federal standards.

This long record of environmental abuse at the incinerator is the most likely source of alarming levels of the toxic metal cadmium that DER has found in soil around the plant. Yet with all the evidence of unchecked pollution, DER and EPA have taken no vigorous enforcement action against the facility. Frequent complaints from local residents have resulted in promises, but nothing else. The city plans to sell the plant to someone who will make necessary upgrades and repairs, but those repairs are years away. Meanwhile, Mt. Ashmore continues to grow except for the parts that are blown into the wind or washed by the rain.

If you would like more information regarding Harrisburg's garbage incinerator, contact Brian Hunt, c/o the Harrisburg Center for Peace and Justice, 315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

CONGRATULATIONS: Barbara & David

Long-time activists Barbara Nace Misicko and husband David recently had a second son. Andrew David weighed 8lbs. 6oz. at birth and at two weeks of age joined many of us at the June 18 TMIA Picnic.

Access to NRC Public Documents Available Through Library Computer

The NRC staff has established a demonstration program designed to expand the scope of information available to users of the agency's Local Public Documents Room at the State Library in Harrisburg and to make that information easier to access. The library has been provided with a computer terminal, telecommunications hookups, and microfiche files of all publicly-available NRC documents from 1981 to the present. The system provides several kinds of searches for locating documents in files for all NRC-licensed power plants and other facilities. After a six-month period, the program will be evaluated to see if it should be continued and possibly expanded. The level of use will be a primary consideration in that determination.

Military's Radioactive Landfills Exposed in New Book

Deadly Defense is the first book which exposes the environmental impact of the entire nuclear weapons complex. Air and water contamination problems at all 16 production plants are detailed, including the dumping of 30 million gallons of water into the soil each year at the Savannah River Plant; the leaking waste pits at the Fernald facility in Ohio (which hold 11 million pounds of uranium); and the dumping of 70,000 curies of radioactivity in the Snake River Aquifer in Idaho.

In readable language the book summarizes the hazards of each site, chronicling a pattern of careless dumping of extremely toxic and long-lived radioactive materials into streams, unlined trenches, and pits. The 170-page book features 16 clear maps of nuclear weapons sites and has dozens of diagrams, photos and other graphics. Included with each book is a 17 x 22 inch four-color map that show the highway and train routes used for dangerous shipments of plutonium and other strategic nuclear materials. For your copy of ***Deadly Defense***, send \$15.00 to the Radioactive Waste Campaign, 625 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10012.

The TMIA Picnic on June 18 was a huge success, lots of fun and we made some money. Thanks to Eric Epstein for hosting the event at his home.

CALENDAR---CALENDAR---CALENDAR

Thursday, July 14---TMI Advisory Panel, 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2nd & Chestnut Sts. Harrisburg

Sunday, July 17---Picnic at Camp Riley from noon until dark (see enclosed flyer for details)

Wednesday, July 20---TMI 10th Anniversary Planning Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets, Harrisburg.

Saturday, August 6---Commemoration of the Hiroshima Bombing--6 p.m. Dinner at the Chapel Hill United Church of Christ, Erford & Poplar Church Roads, Camp Hill. Japanese Dinner. Tickets \$5.00 (contact Paul Lujanac 774-0253). Speaker: Bob Schell, "Does the Path to Peace Run to the Pocketbook." Open poetry reading.

Tuesday, August 9---Commemoration of the Nagasaki Bombing---7:30 p.m. Gather at Market Square Church for procession to Riverfront Park. Candles on the Water and Interfaith Worship service.

There will be no formal TMIA Planning Council meetings in July or August.
All are invited to attend the activities and meetings listed in the calendar.



Picnic

ANNUAL PICNIC AT CAMP RIELY

DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 17TH

TIME: NOON UNTIL
COME EARLY AND GET IN THE POOL!!!!!!!

PLACE: CAMP RIEELLIEYYY -
GO ON FRONT STREET OR 322 WEST UNTIL YOU
GET TO ROUT 443; GO EAST ON 443 LESS THAN
2 MILES; CAMP WILL BE ON YOUR LEFT

MUSIC: DEWEY WILL BE THERE AND WE WILL HAVE THE
DEWEY REVUE, SO BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS

DONATION: \$ 5. KIDS SMALLER THAN 2 WATERMELLONS FREE.

THIS, YEAR AS ALL THE OTHER YEARS, A BIG DINNER.
EVERYONE IS BRINGING A POTLUCK DINNER TO SHARE AT 5 PM.

ACTIVITIES: SWIMMING
POOL VOLLEY BALL
JET SKIING
BATHING BEAUTY CONTEST (SERIOUSLY)
GREASED WATERMELLON
WATER BALLON CATCHING CONTEST
LIMBURGER, CHEESE ROLL
UNDERWATER KISSING CONTEST
MUCH MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!!!!

CALL 233-7877 OR 234-8800



THREE MILE ISLAND

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SEPTEMBER
1988

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

Hearing Set on Evaporation Issues

The ASLB has approved hearings on the pros and cons of evaporating some 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water stored at TMI. The Board suggested October 31 as the hearing date, but intervenors from TMIA and the Susquehanna Valley Alliance asked for an extension until November 14 so that the groups' expert witnesses can be present.

The hearings will focus on whether evaporation of the water is preferable to allowing the water to sit in tanks on the island until the radiation decays naturally; how much radioactive tritium is present in the water; and the health impact of releasing tritium into the air through evaporation. TMIA/SVA intervenor Frances Skolnick said she is sure the hearings "will show that evaporation of the accident generated water and the release of the radioactive vapor into the air is not in the best interests of the health and safety of the population of central Pennsylvania."

ASLB Gets New Chairman

Peter Bloch has replaced Sheldon Wolfe as Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB). Wolfe, who has been a member of panels hearing TMI cases, has consistently ruled against TMIA in technical and managerial hearings. Bloch, by contrast, is considered an objective and fair judge.

Bloch recently participated in the intervention at Texas Utilities' (TU) Comanche Peak Nuclear generator station. In that case, the ASLB approved a settlement between Citizens Association for Safe Energy (CASE) and TU, whereby CASE received \$4.5 million to alleviate ten years of legal expenses. CASE also received \$150,000 annually for the next five years to pay for technical consultants to evaluate plant documents and operations, according to the July 25 issue of **Nuclear Monitor**. Also, whistleblowers received \$5.5 million "in settlement of various claims made by the whistleblowers against Texas Utilities with the Department of Labor" (**Nuclear Monitor**, August 8, 1988).

Volunteers Sought for Community Fair

The Harrisburg East Mall will host its Golden Autumn Community Fair on Friday and Saturday, October 21-22. TMIA will again have an information table with tee-shirts, buttons and books for sale. Volunteers are needed for all shifts from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. both days. If you can spare an hour or two, call Kay Pickering at the TMIA office, 233-3072.

A RED X INDICATES
YOUR DUES PAYMENT
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Three Mile Island Alert

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10th Anniversary Planning Underway

March 28, 1989 will mark ten years since the beginning of the accident at TMI and plans are underway for a fitting commemoration. A committee consisting of Keith Bentz, Eric Epstein, Milt Lowenthal, Paul Lujanac, Pam Parson, Kay Pickering and Vera Stuchinski said plans include the development of literature emphasizing safe energy alternatives to nuclear power, news conferences, press briefings and articles on the health effects of radiation, religious observances, a benefit showing of the film *The China Syndrome*; an exhibit at Dickinson College and a possible international conference. The committee has met twice to date and plans to meet again on September 19 at 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House. There is much to be done and volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Monitors Show Elevated Radiation —GPU Blames Hot Weather

by Deborah Davenport

The Reuter-Stokes radiation monitoring system is owned and operated by GPU Nuclear. The air filter gamma monitors are situated at 16 sites within a ten-mile radius of TMI. For the past three years volunteers have routinely reviewed the printouts, transmitted via telephone lines to the Dauphin County Courthouse Annex.

Since the beginning of February, 1988, I've been reading the Reuter-Stokes printouts that come into the Dauphin County Emergency Management Office. Slowly, some facts have emerged regarding the current state and effectiveness of the data received. In addition, since June, the printouts have shown an alarmingly increasing pattern of elevated readings, and on some days alarms.

This summer's Reuter-Stokes patterns have varied greatly with the highest readings coming July 27 and August 26. The monitor at the north gate of TMI has repeatedly had elevated readings and has triggered alarms on a number of occasions, repeatedly during several days in August.

GPU has generated a number of letters to Dauphin County Emergency Management in which they continue to explain "the problems, malfunctions and anomalies" haunting the Reuter-Stokes system this summer. The heat wave was said to have affected the readings, the battery life, and the system's function at a number of stations, especially at the north gate. Loose connections, faulty telephone hook-ups, and a thunder storm were among some of the other explanations given.

It is possible that a number of GPU's explanations for the high readings are correct. However, having strong concerns about some of these readings (in spite of their explanations), I'm seeking out informed opinion about the readings and looking for a good explanation for the eleven days the system was out in late July and early August (I'm trying to obtain the strip charts for the missing days).

Finally, and probably of greatest importance, I called Gary Baker's Radiation Office at GPU. I was told about system problems regarding the heat. In addition, GPU said that the Reuter-Stokes system was aging and that they were considering replacing the system. I couldn't get solid information on the replacement plans, but it is important that TMIA make certain that GPU puts in a new, functioning system in a timely fashion.

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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Charles Husted I Presume?

by Tom Bailey

A complex and contorted litigation trail before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) concerning Charles Husted has now jumped into the lap of the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals where TMIA intervenor Louise Bradford and attorney Debra Wallet of Blank and Wallet appealed an NRC ruling and on August 17, 1988.

Following the TMI accident in 1979, the NRC requested the owner of TMI to retest all plant personnel. Several employees were accused of cheating during these examinations and the NRC investigated the allegations and conducted public hearings. In April, 1981, an NRC Special Master determined that one employee supervisor, Charles Husted, had attempted to cheat and had not cooperated with the NRC investigation.

The NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) reviewed the Special Master's report in July, 1982. It found insufficient evidence that Mr. Husted had attempted to cheat, but did find that Mr. Husted had been uncooperative and displayed a "poor attitude." However, no sanction was imposed upon plant owner GPU Nuclear or Mr. Husted. TMIA and the Commonwealth of Penna. appealed the ASLB's findings to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board (ASLAB).

In March, 1983, Mr. Husted was promoted by GPUN to supervise non-licensed plant operators. Subsequently, during July, 1983, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and GPUN entered into an agreement that GPUN not use Mr. Husted to train licensed operators or to operate TMI himself. As a result, the state withdrew its appeal of the ASLB decision.

TMIA continued its appeal and in May, 1984, the ASLAB requested as a condition of TMI Unit I restart that Mr. Husted not be employed as a supervisor of non-licensed operators. He was locked out.

The NRC Commissioners questioned the ability of the ASLAB to sanction GPUN when Mr. Husted had not been a participant. In February, 1985, the NRC decided Husted was entitled to a second, *de novo* hearing. Mr. Husted took his cue and requested a hearing.

A different Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) heard the revived case. The NRC staff and TMIA objected to the new hearing. The ALJ didn't know what procedure to follow, what type of hearing it was, or who had the burden of proof. After one week of hearings, in July, 1986, the ALJ agreed with the condition imposed by the ASLAB in May, 1984, and found no reason to remove the condition.

The Husted case once again came before the ASLAB in December, 1987. This time around the ASLAB asked the NRC Commissioners if evidence concerning Mr. Husted's prior work performance could be used as evidence. The Commissioners said "yes," and based upon that evidence, the ASLAB reversed the decision of the ALJ and Mr. Husted was again allowed to supervise non-licensed operators.

The TMIA brief raises three issues on appeal. TMIA argues that the NRC has made an error of law or abused its discretion by reopening the record and granting Mr. Husted a "second" hearing on the ASLAB condition; the second issue argues that Mr. Husted did not request a hearing prior to the NRC Commissioners' decision of February, 1985 and, therefore, should not have received one; and, finally, the TMIA brief asserts that the procedure followed before the ALJ was so egregious so as to be an abuse of the discretion conferred upon the NRC.

Standby for more details...

HELP WANTED (AND NEEDED) - This has been a busy summer at the TMIA office for volunteers Eric Epstein, Kay Pickering, Vera Stuchinski, and others. With the start of the school year, Eric and Vera return to the classroom while Kay continues her full-time job with the Harrisburg Fair Housing Council. Planning Council Member Dan Welliver (who also served as editor of **Island Updates**) has been named the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church. We are currently seeking additional members for the Planning Council (our plans now are to meet on a quarterly basis). Please call Kay at the office if you would like to serve on the Planning Council (233-7897).

THANKS to **Gene Stilp** for sponsoring the Picnic at Camp Reily, July 17 and turning proceeds over to TMIA.

NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES

• Dickinson College Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Emerita, Martha Slotton, has supplied the TMIA office with a computer printout of a "finding aid" for the TMIA and PIRC archives. Other parts of the collection are cataloged, but not included in the printout. Contact TMIA or the Dickinson College Library if you need materials for research purposes.

• Aileen Smith, a TMI researcher currently living in Japan, recently visited the Harrisburg area and brings greetings from the Concerned Women's Association of Noto (CWAN), Japan. CWAN and other groups are protesting the construction of a new 540,000 KW nuclear power plant. Until the Chernobyl accident in 1986, there had been little public protest against nuclear power in Japan. Just months after the accident, the government announced plans to build 120 nuclear power plants by 2030 to supply 60 percent of Japan's electricity. Presently, nuclear power accounts for one-third of Japan's output. Aileen is a featured speaker on TMI issues and some days may appear at more than one function. She has written for several Japanese publications. For more specific information about the growing anti-nuclear movement in Japan, contact the TMIA office or Mary Osborn.

• **Eric Epstein** and **Brian Hunt** developed comments on the DER's Draft Licensing Requirements for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal which Eric presented during an August 30 public hearing. TMIA has been following this issue and seeks additional input from members. Call Eric at 233-7897 with questions or comments.

• A new 44-page book, **Is It Too Late?**, by Taeko Kansha of Japan is available at the TMIA office for \$2.00. Taeko writes of the crisis she perceives as she learns more about nuclear power. Copies in English were made available by Aileen Smith. TMIA will be glad to mail all sale items.

• The book **Deadly Defense** is now available at the TMIA office. This 170-page book features 16 clear maps of nuclear weapon sites, plus dozens of diagrams and photos. This is the first book which exposes the environmental impact of the entire nuclear weapons complex. We also have a dramatic 17" x 22" four-color map that shows highway and train routes for dangerous shipments of plutonium and other strategic nuclear materials. To order: send \$15 to Radioactive Waste Campaign, 625 Broadway, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10012.

• The **1989 Peace Calendar** is now available at the TMIA office. The 18th edition, **Carry It On**, is an artistic celebration of people's work for justice around the world. Price, only \$8.95. They make stunning gifts for birthday, wedding, Christmas and Hanukkah.

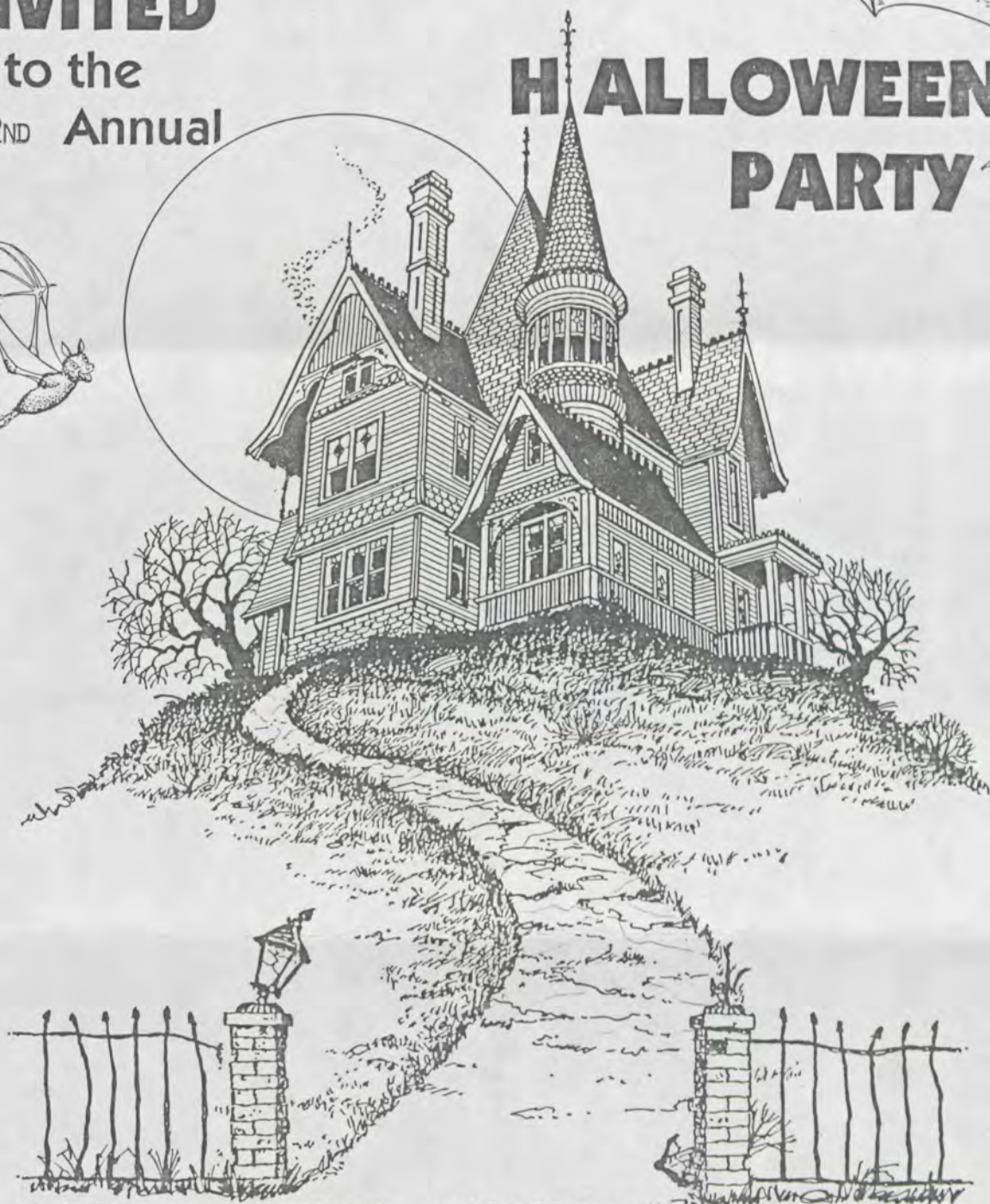
• There will be a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 28 at the Carroll Township Building in Shermansdale to discuss Texas Eastern's activities in Perry County. Among the issues to be discussed, PCB dumping, pipeline expansion, Mercapatan gas venting, compressor station noise, and property damage along the pipeline. The meeting will be moderated by Sen. William J. Moore and include representatives of DER, Texas Eastern, and Perry Countians for a Beautiful Environment. Call TMIA's office (233-7897) or Barb Misicko (582-7584) for more information.

CALENDAR---CALENDAR---CALENDAR

September 7	7:00 p.m. TMI Advisory Panel at the Holiday Inn Town, 2nd & Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg.
September 19	7:00 p.m. TMI 10th Year Commemorative Committee meets at the Harrisburg Friends Meeting House. Everyone invited to help make plans. For more information call 233-7897.
October 15	Susquehanna Valley Alliance's Annual Harvest Happening, 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Greek Orthodox Church, 64 Hershey Ave. Lancaster. Live music, auction.
October 26	7:30 p.m. TMIA Planning Council Quarterly Meeting, Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg.
October 29	9:00 p.m. Halloween Party, Rescue Fire Hall, 3701 N. 6th Street, Harrisburg

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102ND Annual

HALLOWEEN PARTY



DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
TIME: 9 P.M. — ?
PLACE: RESCUE FIRE HALL 3701 N. SIXTH ST.
ACROSS FROM SISCO'S PIZZA

MUSIC: " & THE DECIBELS "
(Live Rock 'n Roll)

COSTUMES: YES, INDEED! 1st PRIZE \$50
JUDGING AT 11 P.M.

DONATION: \$ 6. INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

For More Info. GENE: 234-0800

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November
1988

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Public Comments November 3

Evaporation Hearings Begin Halloween

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has scheduled hearings to begin October 31 on GPU's request to evaporate 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water at TMI. The hearings, which are scheduled to get underway at the Lancaster County Courthouse, 50 N. Duke Street, Lancaster, includes three hours for public comment from 7 to 10 p.m. on Nov. 3.

The Licensing Board will meet from 7 to 10 p.m. on Nov. 3 in Courtroom A to receive limited appearance statements from members of the public. Those wanting to voice an opinion on GPU's aim of boiling the water and allowing radioactive tritium into the environment will have an opportunity to state their views. TMIA will coordinate car pooling to the hearing (call 233-7897) and those unable to attend may send their comments directly to the TMIA office.

The hearing will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31 in Courtroom A. It is scheduled to continue from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 1-4 and November 8-10. On Monday, November 7, the hearing is scheduled from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hearings on November 7, 9, and 10 will be held in the 6th floor hearing room at the Courthouse.

Citizens Within Ten Mile Radius Ask Dukakis Support

A group of Massachusetts and New Hampshire residents who live within ten miles of Seabrook nuclear power station—and who call themselves "Citizens Within the Ten Mile Radius"—have asked that members of TMIA support Michael Dukakis' candidacy for the presidency. In a letter to TMIA they state:

"For the first time in the history of the nuclear power industry, we finally have a presidential candidate who understands and knows the NRC 'up close and personal.'"

"Two years ago, Michael Dukakis took on the Reagan Department of Energy, the NRC, and the powerful nuclear lobby. Mike Dukakis is the main reason why Seabrook Station is not on line today. He took a stand for the people of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and he has not wavered from his convictions despite immense pressure from the nuclear lobby here and in Washington..."

"We know Michael Dukakis well. We know of his deep concerns about nuclear power risks and nuclear waste. We know that he is committed to developing a safe, efficient and economical energy future for America."

On the other hand...

"...we've had a big difference on the safe use of nuclear power for our energy base. I believe we must use clean, safe, nuclear power."

George Prescott Bush

Debate #2, October 13, 1988

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U.S. Nuclear Industry Averages Six Mishaps Per Day During 1987

Personnel error was involved in almost three-quarters of the approximately 3,000 mishaps which occurred at U.S. nuclear plants in 1987—an average of six per day. Of these, approximately 600 involved errors by licensed reactor operators. Further, the number of reported instances of drug and alcohol use among nuclear workers tripled during 1987, signaling the failure of the nuclear industry's effort at self-regulation in this area.

The above are among the findings presented in a study released October 19 by Public Citizen and TMIA: *Who's At the Controls: A Critique of the Qualifications and Training of Nuclear Power Plant Workers*. The study, based on two years of research, also showed that 73 percent of licensed operators do not hold even a Bachelor's degree—at some plants the number is over 90 percent—and only five reactor operators in the entire industry—that's one-tenth of one percent—hold Doctorate degrees.

"Nuclear power is an exceedingly complex and dangerous technology that demands constant vigilance and necessitates that the highest standards be set for plant operators," contends Kenneth Boley, an energy policy analyst for Public Citizen.

Operator training, qualifications and performance have been the source of controversy at TMI for years. "Ever since control room operator Harold Hartman revealed that operators systematically falsified leak rates at Unit-2 in violation of the operating license," said TMIA spokesman Eric Epstein, "GPU has been plagued by a series of operator-related problems."

Epstein listed several operator-related problems at TMI including: the cheating scandal of 1978-79; the \$140,000 fine levied by the NRC for material false statements made by GPU in connection with the license certification of then TMI-2's Supervisor of Operations who cheated on his license requalification exam in 1979; Met Ed's guilty plea to one count and no contest plea to 11 counts in the leak rate falsification case (February, 1984); the firing of a Unit-2 shift supervisor for sleeping on the job (December, 1987); and the firing of a Unit-2 operator for drinking and taking drugs (August, 1988).

Who's At the Controls? further documents that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has violated its legal obligation regarding worker training. This includes the development of federal guidelines governing the minimum standards for worker training as mandated by Congress in the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The study charges the NRC ignored this directive and instead in 1985 turned responsibility for most aspects of worker training over to an industry trade group, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). Since then, the NRC has failed to adequately review INPO's program, which the study finds is lax and inadequate.

New Mexicans Fights High-Level Waste Dump

Residents of New Mexico are rallying against Department of Energy plans to locate the world's first permanent high-level radioactive waste site there, 26 miles from Carlsbad and almost a half-mile beneath the state's salt flats. Already the DoE has dug tunnels 2,150 feet into the salt beds, but no shipments can be accepted until Congress votes to withdraw the sixteen square miles of land around the proposed waste site from public use.

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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New Mexico's Congressional delegation is reporting more calls and letters in opposition to the "Land Withdrawal Bill" than any other issue. Debates have been held on the issue by the New Mexico League of Women Voters, rallies have been held in opposition, lawsuits have been filed to block the project, and Santa Fe's School Board has acted to warn parents (with a mailing of more than 11,000 letters) of the danger of radioactive contamination if an accident were to occur in the city's streets involving a shipment of the plutonium 238.

Opponents of the project have asked that letters be sent to members of Congress opposing the Land Withdrawal bill.

Massachusetts Citizens Can Ban Nuclear Power Plants

Having gathered 120,000 signatures, Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy have placed a question on the ballot for the November 8 general election which, if passed, would require "no further generation of electric power by commercial nuclear power plants in the Commonwealth by means which result in the production of nuclear waste" after July 4, 1989.

"Yes" votes would keep the Pilgrim plant in Plymouth closed forever and result in the shutdown of the Yankee Rowe plant in western Massachusetts, but utility interests are spending \$7 million on a telephone, direct mail and mass media blitz designed to scare voters into voting against the initiative. Safe energy advocates are trying to educate voters to the fact that the two plants only produce four percent of the state's electricity—just 1% with Pilgrim closed—in addition to the usual menacing facts about nuclear power generation.

An effort is also being made to highlight the alternatives available, including the interesting fact that the \$500 million Boston Edison is spending to repair Pilgrim could furnish every office in Boston with energy-efficient lighting and save more power than Pilgrim produces at full capacity. Further, they point out that Boston Electric has rejected offers from 61 companies bidding to supply it with 1,848 megawatts of electricity by 1992 (twice the power of Pilgrim and Rowe) for as little as half the price through cogeneration, small hydroelectric dams and other renewable energy sources. Watch election night for Massachusetts results.

Radiation Health Effects More Serious than Previously Thought

A new study of Japanese bomb survivors by a joint U.S.-Japanese commission now raises the projected number of cancers, leading many to believe allowable radiation doses will become more restricted.

The study of Japanese bomb survivors has been the basis of radiation standards throughout the world. The new study, based on six years of documentation, projects a higher number of cancers than did the 1965 study by the Oak Ridge Laboratory. Funded by the Japanese Ministry of Health and the U.S. Department of Energy, the study tracked almost 94,000 survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

The new study shows that a radiation dose on the order of 260 person-rem will produce one fatal cancer in the exposed population. Currently, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences accepts a standard of 5,000 person-rem to effect a single fatal cancer, so as one might expect, the nuclear industry is challenging the new findings.

The International Commission on Radiological Protection stated at its September 1987 meeting that it will not begin to review the new information until 1990. Not waiting for that body to act, the British National Radiological Protection Board recommended in November that whole body radiation doses to workers be made three times more restrictive. If other national radiation bodies follow suit, the International Commission, long followed on these matters, may begin to lose its influence. The Commission, composed of and influenced by nuclear industry representatives, has based its radiation standards not only on the effects of radiation, but what is acceptable risk compared to other industries.

Vote November 8

Vote November 8

Vote November 8

NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES-NEWS NOTES

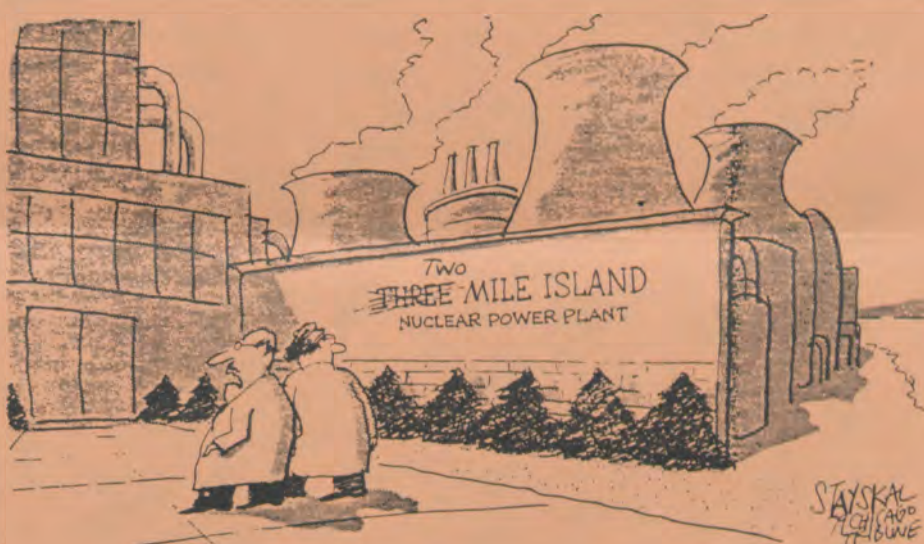
The **1989 Peace Calendar** is now available at the TMIA office. The 18th edition, **Carry It On**, is an artistic celebration of people's work for justice around the world. Price, only \$8.95. They make stunning gifts for birthday, wedding, Christmas and Hanukkah.

"Top officials of the defunct Atomic Energy Commission said today that they were never informed of **serious reactor accidents at the Savannah River Plant**. They suggested the incidents had been kept secret by local managers because of national security concerns about publicizing America's problems producing atomic weapons." This is reprinted verbatim from an October 5, New York Times story about the recent revelation of a 1985 memo which reported 30 accidents at government run nuclear reactors in the 1960s. The article says AEC Commissioners, the government's official promoters of nuclear power and nuclear weapons, were kept in the dark by local managers who feared the Soviet Union would learn about the severe problems the U.S. was experiencing in producing fuel for nuclear warheads. Right. And George Bush is an environmentalist.

Tenth Anniversary Planning is well underway and volunteers are needed. There will be an international conference in Harrisburg on March 17, 18, & 19; a vigil on March 27; a pot-luck dinner and program on the 27th; a press conference on March 28; the marketing of commemorative tee-shirts and posters; literature to be developed and put together; and publicity to be generated. If you're willing to help, phone 233-7897.

The newly constituted **TMIA Planning Council** consists of Chairperson Vera Stuchinski; Treasurer Betsy Robinson; Office Volunteers Kay Pickering and Eric Epstein; attorney, Tom Bailey; Update editor Dan Welliver; Alert editor Bill Cologie; Cherie Friedrich and Paul Lujanac.

A new bumper sticker **NO EVAPORATION AT TMI** is now available at the TMIA office. Send your dollar and we'll send you a bumper sticker—red lettering & a yellow background.



"THE FIRST ACCIDENT WAS A RADIATION LEAK. THE SECOND ONE WAS A BIT MORE SERIOUS!"

New 10th Anniversary tee-shirts will be available for Christmas giving.

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- October 25** 7:00 p.m. TMIA Planning Council Meeting, Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets
- October 29** 9:00 p.m. Halloween Costume Party, Rescue Fire Hall, 3701 North 6th Street, Harrisburg
- October 31** 1:00 p.m. NRC hearing on evaporation begins, Lancaster County Court House
- November 3** 7-10:00 p.m. The public is invited to make limited appearance statements before the NRC Atomic Safety & Licensing Board, Lancaster County Court House
- November 14** 7:00 p.m. TMI 10th Year Commemorative Committee meets at Harrisburg Friends Meeting House. Everyone invited to help make plans. Phone 233-7897.

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

December
1988

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

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Oral Arguments Heard in Husted Case

The U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in TMIA's appeal of a decision of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board which reversed an Administrative Law Judge and permitted Husted to work as a supervisor of non-licensed operators at Three Mile Island. Husted had been barred from training or supervising the operators because he had attempted to cheat on a licensing test and refused to cooperate into an NRC investigation into cheating on the Island.

TMIA intervenor Louise Bradford and attorney Debra Wallet of Blank and Wallet are handling the case for TMIA. Wallet, according to TMIA Planning Council Member attorney Tom Bailey, presented an excellent oral argument before the three judge panel. Presenting testimony against the TMIA position were attorneys from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and GPU Nuclear. A ruling is expected early next year.

Executive Order Clears Way for Swifter Licensing

Less than two weeks after George Bush captured the White House, Ronald Reagan penned his name to a four-page executive order which authorizes federal officials to prepare, coordinate and contribute federal resources to evacuation plans for nuclear plants where local and state governments have refused to cooperate with utility efforts, thereby blocking licensing and operation.

Under the order, utilities must certify to the Federal Emergency Management Agency that state and/or local governments are refusing to participate in emergency planning. Then FEMA would develop its own plan, which will assume state and local governments will cooperate fully during emergencies. Interestingly, under the order FEMA is required to review and evaluate its plans as though they were submitted by local government, serving as judge and jury for its own creations.

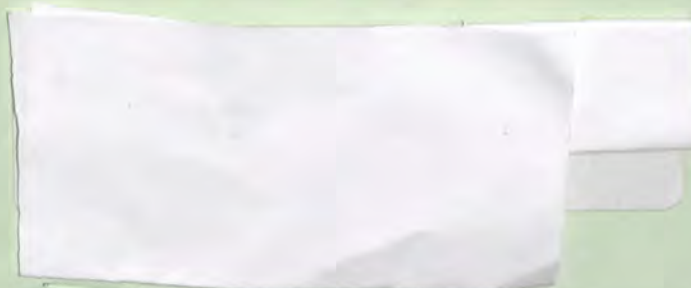
The Safe Energy Communication Council, a coalition of 13 environmental groups led by the Sierra Club, said the order will help "a new generation of nuclear power plants that can come on line with no public oversight." Others view the order as a preview of what's coming, as the Department of Energy is pushing hard for the elimination of evacuation plans as a consideration for the licensing of so-called "advanced" reactors. The DOE believes that advanced reactors are so safe that neither containments nor emergency plans are necessary.

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Though discussed for months prior to the election, the White House delayed the order fearing the Gov. Michael Dukakis would use the order as a campaign issue. "Why stir up an issue before the election?" asked one White House aide.

After years of calling for less federal meddling in local affairs, the hypocrisy of the Reagan administration's action was smoothed over by Asst. Attorney General Douglas Kmiec who said the order is in harmony with the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (which apparently now covers disasters waiting to happen): "The statute indicates that the states should be allowed, whenever possible, to carry out their traditional roles, with the Federal Government stepping in only as a last resort."

Renewed Effort on Whistleblower Protection Planned

The outrage generated over President Reagan's pocket veto of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1988—after assurances of administrative support—practically guarantees new whistleblower protection legislation will be introduced early in the 101st Congress. Last year's bill, which was supported by TMIA, passed with strong bipartisan support (418-0 in the House and by unanimous consent in the Senate), but died on President Reagan's desk after Congress adjourned.

The 1988 legislation would have placed meaningful guarantees on the free speech rights of federal employees who demonstrate their determination to be public servants, instead of bureaucrats. The Government Accountability Project and other supporters of the whistleblower bill are urging Congress to symbolically prove its support for new legislation by introducing it as House Resolution 1 or Senate Bill 1 and to schedule votes early in the session.

Supporters of the legislation are urged to write their representatives in Congress, President-elect Bush, House Speaker James Wright, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, and legislators whose efforts will be key in determining the new bill's success including, Rep. Patricia Schroeder, Chair of the House Subcommittee on Civil Service (c/o U.S. House, Washington, D.C. 20515; Sen. Carl Levin, Chair of the Senate Gov. Affairs Subcommittee; Sen. David Pryor, Chair of the Sen. Gov. Affairs Committee on Civil Service; and Sen. John Glenn, Chair of the Sen. Gov. Affairs Committee (all U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510).

Outlook Rosy for GPU Nuclear

The embarrassment of the nuclear industry less than a decade ago, GPU was named "Electric Utility of the Year" for 1988 by *Electric Light and Power Magazine*. The company, the first holding company ever selected for the award, got the nod on the basis of its recovery from the accident and strong financial performance during 1987 and 1988. The company's third quarter report for 1988 showed an 8.6% increase in the sale of electricity; a common stock dividend of 45 cents per share was paid (the second quarter dividend was 30 cents per share); and the company has received permission from the Security and Exchange Commission to buy up to eight million of its shares on the open market. The company is particularly interested in buying up their "odd-lot" shares, those held by people with fewer than 100 shares of the utility's stock—some of whom have the nerve to show up at stockholder meetings to ask embarrassing questions.

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Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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Peaceful Atoms May Find Their Way Into Warheads

With three nuclear reactors shut down at its Savannah River Plant in South Carolina, the federal government is looking for new sources of tritium and plutonium, needed for the production of nuclear weapons. On November 18 President Reagan signed an executive order calling for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to draw up detailed plans for dealing with a national security emergency, including plans to seize civilian nuclear power plants.

The international community may find the proposal alarming, particularly since the United States has consistently called for clear delineation between civilian and military uses of nuclear technology. The U.S. is a signatory to the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which included strongly worded provisions against the use of civilian nuclear industries for military purposes.

Considering the controversy surrounding the siting of a permanent nuclear waste dump—and the disposal of plutonium, tritium and other by-products of commercial nuclear reactors—don't be surprised if there's a sudden push by the government to suspend the licenses of civilian reactors to gain the "special nuclear materials" for use in nuclear weapons. Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute, suspects the government may be advancing the argument that, "For economy reasons the government may be saying it would be more convenient to use nuclear power plants for weapon materials instead of building new ones or fixing up the old ones."

The tritium now on Three Mile Island that GPU is now looking to release into the air by boiling the water left over from the clean-up must look quite attractive to Department of Defense types who probably hate to see the gas, used in the production of nuclear warheads, go to waste irradiating central Pennsylvanians when it could be in the nuclear stockpile.

Americans Oppose Nuclear Power Development

A new public opinion poll has found that a clear majority of the American public—59 percent—oppose any further nuclear power development. The poll, conducted by the Analysis Group for the Safe Energy Communication Council, found opposition to nuclear power across every imaginable line: race, sex, age, political party, and geography. For example, Republicans oppose building more reactors by a 51-46% margin; Democrats by a 64-30% margin; independents by a 61-33% margin. New Englanders were the most ardent opponents with a 70-26% anti-nuclear edge.

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The **1989 Peace Calendar** is now available at the TMIA office. The 18th edition, **Carry It On**, is an artistic celebration of people's work for justice around the world. Price, only \$8.95. They make stunning gifts for birthday, wedding, Christmas and Hanukkah.

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New 10th Anniversary tee-shirts will be available for Christmas giving. Do some Christmas Shopping at the TMIA Office—Call 233-7897 for gift giving advice.

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January 9	7:30 p.m. TMIA Planning Council Meeting, Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets
January 31	6:30 PM Pot-luck meal, Friends Meeting House
January 31	7:30 PM TMIA General Membership Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets, Harrisburg

Accident Effect on Fetuses Small According to State Health Study

The Pennsylvania Department of Health reports that women who took extra medication to cope with stress during the early days of the TMI accident were more likely to have children with low birth weights. Women pregnant at the time were also found to be more likely to say that their children's health was not as good as that of children born two years later.

Dr. George Tokuhata, director of the Health Department's Division of Epidemiology Research and its TMI Health Research Program, presented the findings in mid-November at the annual convention of the American Public Health Association in Boston. Of the 4,000 pregnant women studied, 19 percent said they were extremely disturbed by the accident and 4 percent of them took extra medication, such as tranquilizers or sleeping pills. Of these, 12 percent had babies of low birth weight, compared to six percent of the women who did not take medication. Dr. Tokuhata said he wasn't surprised by the findings since extra medication taken during pregnancy can affect fetuses.

GPU Wants to Remove Monitors

GPU Nuclear has proposed removing Dauphin County's only link to radiation monitoring at TMI, the Reuter-Stokes monitoring system. The monitors, which were installed at TMI eight years ago, provide instant readings of radiation levels from 16 stations located on and around the island, and Dauphin County has a printer in its Emergency Management Agency office that records the readings.

Deborah Davenport, a member of Concerned Mothers and Women who regularly reads the printouts at the Dauphin County Emergency Management office for TMIA, argued that the system be kept in place "as its the only real-time monitor left," she said. A real-time monitor gives instant readings of the radiation levels.

At a November 30 meeting, Davenport raised concerns about high readings recorded this summer, which GPU said were due to excessive heat and humidity. GPU's manager of environmental controls, Gary Baker, said the company does not rely on the Reuter-Stokes monitors for information, but relies instead on other real-time monitors inside the plant that would give the initial notice of high radiation readings.

The county, which pays \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year to maintain a dedicated phone line to receive the Reuter-Stokes data, has no other source for instant information.

Idaho, Land of Potatoes and TMI's Debris

The more than 300,000 pounds of highly radioactive debris from TMI's melted core are being moved more than 2700 miles by rail across ten states for temporary storage at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). In this travel, the cargo comes within a half mile of more than a million people, but the Department of Energy has assured the public that the shipments are "safe, secure, and well monitored."

From July 20, 1986 through last June, there have been 16 shipments. The most recent shipments contained 30,000 pounds of radioactive debris in three casks. The last shipment has been scheduled for next year.

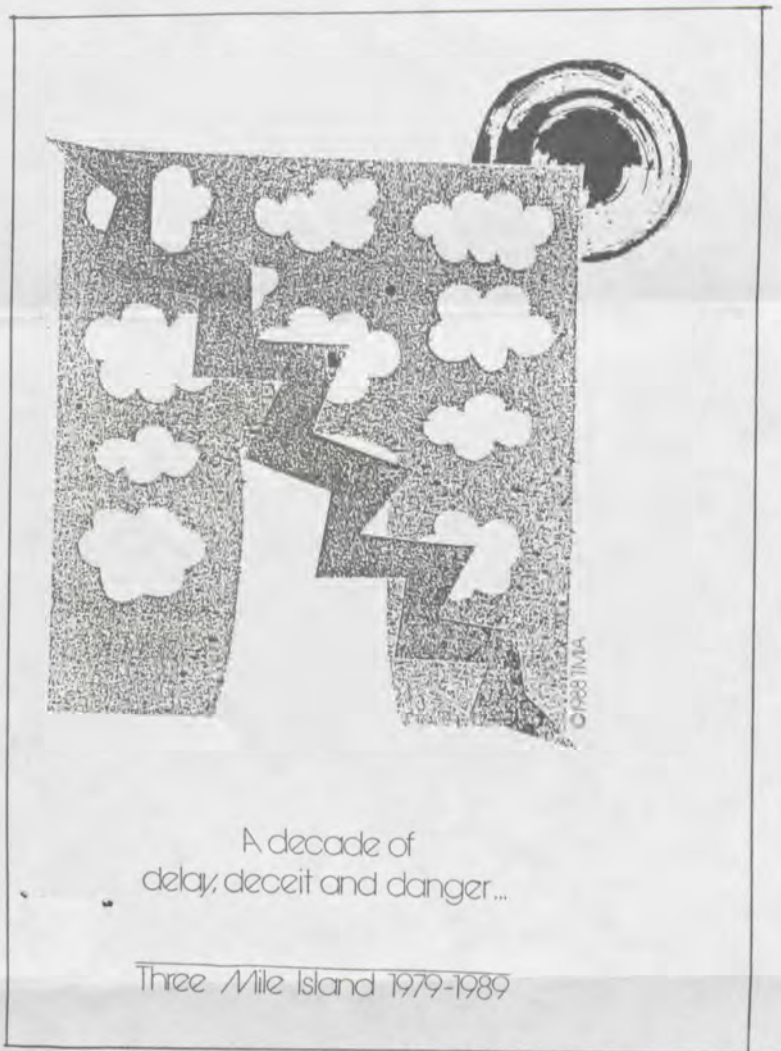
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10 YEARS AFTER THE TMI ACCIDENT

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